

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 6, 9, 19-21 and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for exchanging information between entities on a network comprising:

identifying a plurality of data elements capable of being instantiated by each of a plurality of applications on the network and to which global annotations may be anchored, wherein each global annotation for a given data element is stored by an annotation system independently from a representation of the given data element used each of the plurality of software applications to represent the given data element, and wherein the plurality of data elements to which global annotations can be anchored are identified from a registry maintained by the annotation system;

providing one or more interfaces for creating global annotations anchored to for an instance of a selected one or more of the identified data elements instantiated by a first application in a first document, wherein a first one of the interfaces for creating global annotations is accessible from a the first application capable of instantiating identified data elements in a first type of document, and wherein the interface is configured to capture both annotation content supplied when a global annotation is created for the instance of the identified data element and a context of the instance of the identified data element, wherein the context identifies how the first data element is used within the first document; and

providing one or more interfaces for viewing, from one or more each of the plurality of applications, the global annotations, wherein a first one of the interfaces for viewing the global annotations is accessible from a second application capable of instantiating the first identified data elements in a second type of document using a representation of the data element different than the representation of the first data element in the first type of document, and wherein the global annotation created for the first data element, when viewed, presents the annotation content and the context identifying how the first data element is used in the first document.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more interfaces for creating global annotations comprises at least one application for creating graphical user interfaces.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second applications comprise a data analysis application.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second applications comprise a text editor.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[6]] 1, wherein providing the one or more interfaces for viewing, from at least the second application, global annotations created from the first application comprises:
 - parsing data loaded by the second application into discrete data elements; and
 - searching the registry for entries corresponding to the discrete data elements.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing one or more interfaces for creating global annotations anchored to selected annotatable data elements from at least the first application comprises:
 - selecting an annotation structure associated with a selected annotatable data element; and
 - generating a graphical user interface based on the selected annotation structure.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[9]] 1, wherein the context identifying how the first data element is used in the first document is presented by allowing a user to view details regarding the context in which the global annotation was created comprises providing a link, as part of the interfaces for viewing the global

annotation, to a the first document containing a data element to which the global annotation is anchored.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the plurality of data elements comprises identifying categories of data elements to which global annotations may be anchored.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for creating global annotations, comprising:

loading a first set of data with a first application;

identifying ~~one or more~~ a plurality of data elements contained in the first set of data to which global annotations can be anchored, wherein each global annotation for a given data element, of the plurality, is stored by an annotation system independently from a representation of the given data element used each of a plurality of software applications to represent the given data element, and wherein the plurality of data elements to which global annotations can be anchored are identified from a registry maintained by the annotation system;

providing a first interface allowing a user to create a global annotation for a selected one of the identified data elements, wherein the first interface is configured to capture both annotation content supplied when a global annotation is created for the instance of the selected data element and a context of the instance of the selected data element, wherein the context identifies how the selected data element is used within the first set of data;

providing a second interface allowing the user to view the global annotation from within a second application loading a second set of data containing the selected data element for which the global annotation was created, and wherein the global annotation created for the selected data element, when viewed, presents the annotation content and the context identifying how the selected data element is used in the first set of data; and

storing the global annotation created via the first interface in an annotation store, wherein the global annotation is anchored to the selected data element.

13. (Cancelled)
14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the global annotation is anchored to the selected data element via association with a global identifier generated for the selected data object.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein identifying one or more data elements in the loaded data to which global annotations can be anchored comprises:
- parsing the loaded data into parsed data elements; and
 - searching a the registry of annotatable data elements maintained by the annotation system for matches to the parsed data elements.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein parsing the loaded data into parsed data elements comprises applying a hashing function to portions of the loaded data.
17. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising highlighting, in the loaded data, the identified data elements to which global annotations can be anchored.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein:
- the identified data elements comprise data elements from different categories;
 - and
 - the highlighting comprises highlighting data elements from different categories with different colors.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method for viewing global annotations, comprising:

loading a first set of data with a first application;

identifying one or more data elements in the first set of data to which global annotations have been anchored, wherein each global annotation for a given data element, of the plurality, is stored by an annotation system independently from a representation of the given data element used each of a plurality of software applications to represent the given data element, and wherein the plurality of data elements to which global annotations can be anchored are identified from a registry maintained by the annotation system;

providing an indication of the identified data elements; and

providing an interface, accessible from the first application, allowing a user to view a global annotation for a selected one of the identified data elements, wherein at least one of the global annotations was previously created from a second application loading a second set of data containing a data element to which the at least one global annotation is anchored, and wherein the global annotation created for the at least one data element, when viewed, presents annotation content for the global annotation and a context identifying how the selected data element was used in the second set of data when the global annotation was created.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein:

providing an indication of the identified data elements comprises displaying an icon proximate the identified data elements; and

the interface is accessible by selecting the icon.

24.- 30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) A method for creating global annotations, comprising:

loading a first set of data with a first application;

identifying a plurality of data elements contained in the first set of data to which global annotations can be anchored, wherein each global annotation for a given data

element, of the plurality, is stored by an annotation system independently from a representation of the given data element used each of a plurality of software applications to represent the given data element, and wherein the plurality of data elements to which global annotations can be anchored are identified from a registry maintained by the annotation system;

providing a first interface allowing a user to create a global annotation for a selected one of the identified data elements, wherein the first interface is configured to capture both annotation content supplied when a global annotation is created for the instance of the selected data element;

providing a second interface allowing the user to view the global annotation from within a second application loading a second set of data containing the selected data element for which the global annotation was created, and wherein the global annotation created for the selected data element, when viewed, presents the annotation content; and

storing the global annotation created via the first interface in an annotation store, wherein the global annotation is anchored to the selected data element.